

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
v. )  
ELIJAH MELTON; and KAREEM ) C.A. No. 24-59-JJM-AEM  
PIRES, )  
Defendants. )

## ORDER

Pending before the Court is Defendant Kareem Pires' Motion to Sever. ECF No. 53. The Court DENIES the Motion. A single trial with a single jury, against both Defendants on all counts will begin September 3, 2025.

“[T]hose indicted together are tried together to prevent inconsistent verdicts and to conserve judicial and prosecutorial resources....” *United States v. Soto-Beniquez*, 356 F.3d 1, 29 (1st Cir. 2004). To overcome this presumption, a defendant must demonstrate “prejudice so pervasive that a miscarriage of justice looms.” *Id.* In conspiracy cases, the preference for a joint trial is particularly strong. *See United States v. Floyd*, 740 F.3d 22, 37 (1st Cir. 2014).

After reviewing the evidence as proposed by the Government (ECF No. 63-1), the Court has concluded that any prejudice to Karen Pires will not be severe such that there will be any injustice by a joint trial on the single indictment. The evidence to prove the conspiracy is so inextricably intertwined that a severed trial (by either the counts or the parties) “would have necessarily involved repetitive use of most of the same evidence and same facts, . . . [without] a clear showing of substantial

prejudice to the defendant.” *United States v. Diallo*, 29 F.3d 23, 28 (1st Cir. 1994) (quoting *United States v. Ciampaglia*, 628 F.2d 632, 643 (1st Cir.), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 956 (1980))<sup>1</sup>

The Court DENIES Defendant Kareem Pires’ Motion to Sever. ECF No. 53.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

*s/John J. McConnell, Jr.*

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John J. McConnell, Jr.  
Chief United States District Judge

July 10, 2025

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<sup>1</sup> The Court will follow procedures set forth by the First Circuit, including in *United States v. Weadick*, 15 F.4th 1, 8-9 (1st Cir. 2021), and will give cautionary instructions when requested.